

REMARKS

By this Amendment Applicant has modified the independent claims to further require that there be a CCD or CMOS sensor element. Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art references of record, whether considered alone, or in combination, fail to either teach or suggest this advance in the art.

More specifically, Applicant's present invention is directed to a low-cost optical linkage device that allows the relative positional relationship between two optical parts to be easily and precisely fixed. According to the present invention, the optical linkage links a first part and a second part. The first part includes a threaded portion and holds, an optical element such as, for example, the CMOS or CCD sensor that has now been specified in the independent claims. The second part includes a threaded portion that is screwable to the threaded portion of the first part and holds an optical device that forms a pair with the optical device held by the first part.

The optical linkage comprises a positioning recess that is formed in either one of the first part and the second part and a positioning protrusion that is also formed in either of the first or second parts. The positioning protrusion selectively engages the recesses and thus allows the first part to be joined with the second part. Applicant has also added new independent claim 16 that further underscores the distinctions and also notes that there is simply no teaching or suggestion whatsoever regarding any means for securing the first and second parts in a permanent fixed relationship as specified in claims 1 and 8. For example, Applicants description notes that the two structures may be secured with even greater

strength using an adhesive (see specifically page 7 in the last line of the first partial paragraph).

Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Ishikawa reference is directed to a much different structure wherein the teeth of element 1, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, engage with the protrusions illustrated as elements 2a and 20a. As described with reference to the Ishikawa reference, Ishikawa teaches that the protrusions are formed in a housing portion such as the structure 2a protruding from element 14. There is simply no teaching nor suggestion whatsoever regarding the fixing of the two structural elements. Furthermore, in the Ishikawa reference, the threaded portions cited by the Examiner are on a different structure than the structure having the protrusions as asserted by the Examiner. Specifically, Applicant notes that the Examiner relies upon distinct elements 13 and 14 which is significantly different than Applicant's presently claimed structure. Furthermore, as noted above, there is simply no teaching nor suggestion whatsoever regarding the fixing of the elements in a permanent relationship as disclosed in the present application.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the prior art rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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